



# NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CNRSE announces 2016 Sailor of the Year

*By Petty Officer 1st Class John Smolinski, Navy Public Affairs Support Element*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Navy Region Southeast (NRSE) selected Petty Officer 1st Class William Joseph, assigned to Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base (JRB) New Orleans, as Sailor of the Year for 2016 during a ceremony on board NAS Jacksonville Nov. 16.

The top five finalists flown to Jacksonville for the competition included Joseph; Petty Officer 1st Class Reberto Colon of NAS Jacksonville; Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Foss of NAS JRB Sam Houston in Fort Worth, Texas; Petty Officer 1st Class Jasmin Shackelford of NAS Corpus Christi, Texas; and Petty Officer Jeffrey Atherton of Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington, Tennessee.

"Our five Sailors of the year finalists were selected from the 18 installations from across our region," said Command Master Chief David Twiford, Navy Region Southeast. "It was tough to get down to the top five, and it was even tougher to get down to one."

Twiford said that when looking for Sailor of the Year candidates, what he is really looking for is the Sailor who made the biggest contribution to mission accomplishment.

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## **2/2/2 REGION SOY**

“For us at base commands, the most important thing we make sure happens is that families have what they need,” said Twiford. “That way, deployed Sailors don’t have to worry about their families while they are completing missions all around the world. Our Sailors of the Year best exemplify the success of our mission.”

“We got to know all five of the finalists from all around the Southeast region this week,” said NAS JRB New Orleans Command Master Chief William Chad Helms. “All five are just phenomenal individuals, and [Petty Officer Joseph] is a direct reflection of all five of these Sailors. He will represent the region well.”

Joseph said that this award might have been given as an individual accomplishment, but this could not have been done without the successes of everyone at the command.

“This has actually been a learning process,” said Joseph. “Being able to meet with my peers, hear the different aspects of how we got here, learn about the different commands around the region, and to spend this week in Jacksonville has been amazing.”

The selection was announced at the conclusion of NRSE Sailor of the Year Week. The week began with an oral board with various Southeast installations’ command master chiefs, followed by days of participation in a series of recreational activities in Jacksonville, including a visit to Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine, Florida; a tour of the Jacksonville Jaguars' EverBank Field; and a visit to Jacksonville's Veteran Memorial Wall.

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